

CITY OF KNOXVILLE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**Online Tax Collection Services
for the City of Knoxville, Tennessee**

**Proposals to be received by 11:00:00 a.m., Eastern Time
December 11, 2015**

Submit Proposals to:
City of Knoxville
Office of Purchasing Agent
City/County Building
Room 667-674
400 Main Street
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

CITY OF KNOXVILLE
Request for Proposals
Online Tax Collection Services

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**City of Knoxville
Request for Proposals
Online Tax Collection Services**

I. Statement of Intent

The City of Knoxville, referred to hereafter as “the City,” is seeking proposals to implement real and personal property tax collection electronically via the internet. The internet collection method must be easy to use, allow payment at any time of day, and integrate seamlessly with the existing tax collection system. The system must also support point-of-sale devices used to process credit card payment at the City Tax Collection Office.

It is the City's intent to select the most suitable solution based on responses to this RFP. The City will only consider “turnkey” solution proposals where the vendor provides the setup and service at **no cost** to the City. A justified and fair service charge will be added to the payment and be borne by the property owner. To offset processing costs, the vendor may retain the charge.

Since one vendor may not be able to provide the full breath of applications and services described in the scope of work, the vendor may partner with other vendors to create a response that is comprehensive in nature. However, the City requires one offeror to act as the Prime Contractor; Prime Contractor shall be legally and financially responsible for success of the project. The Prime Contractor must be the respondent to the Request for Proposal (RFP) and clearly identify all subcontractors and third party software providers. Term of the contract will be for one year with two optional one-year renewals.

II. RFP Time Line

Availability of RFP November 20, 2015

Deadline for questions to be submitted (in writing) to the
Purchasing Agent December 4, 2015

Proposals Due Date December 11, 2015

This timetable is for the information of submitting entities. These dates are subject to change. **However, in no event shall the deadline for submission of the proposals be changed except by written modification from the City of Knoxville Purchasing Division.**

III. Background

3.1 Current Operation. Since 2006, the City website (www.knoxvilletn.gov) has provided public access to real and personal property tax information via name, property address, or property identification number. This online search software was written in-house and interfaces to the payment services described below.

The City site also accepts tax payment by credit card or check. The software used for payment services is provided by a third party, FIS. As the current contract with FIS can no longer be extended, the main purpose of this procurement is to re-bid these services.

In-house, the City uses an Oracle-based revenue collection system written and maintained by City staff. This system processes electronic files containing payment and other information supplied by FIS. The system also processes electronic files for escrowed payments as well as payments that are made directly to the office through mail or by walk-in customers.

Currently, the three front counter cashier stations used to collect payment do not support credit card processing. This additional capability as well as the point-of-sale equipment used to read and process the cards are desired and part of this procurement.

The public has the ability to pay taxes via the phone using IVR technology. This payment type will be discontinued and is not needed for this procurement.

Please see the table below for estimated payments received in fiscal year 2014/2015.

Real Property & Personal Property Tax Payments

Direct	Escrow	E-Payment
\$114,670,000	\$10,790,000	7,140,000

Real property taxes are due October 1 of each tax year and are delinquent the following March. A 1% reduction is applied to taxes received in October of current tax year.

3.2 Technical Environment . The City Information Systems Division supports all city computers and software and employs systems engineers, analysts, database administrators, a technical writer, and help desk support staff. The Division performs backups and maintains the servers, workstations, software, and network environment. All city computers have city email and access to the internet.

The city website (www.knoxvilletn.gov) is hosted by a third party in a remote location. An on-site database server contains a copy of the property tax information searchable on line in a SQL Server database. Another remote site hosted by FIS processes the online payment. The web accessible SQL Server database is updated nightly with payment information from the ORACLE production tax application server. Firewalls and SSL hardware appliances separate the web server from the production server.

IV. General Conditions

4.1 The following data is intended to form the basis for submission of proposals to provide software and services for the City of Knoxville.

4.2 This material contains general conditions for the procurement process, the scope of service requested, contract requirements, instructions for submissions of proposals, and submission forms that must be included in the proposal. The RFP should be read in its entirety before preparing the proposal.

4.3 All materials submitted pursuant to this RFP shall become the property of the City of Knoxville.

4.4 To the extent permitted by law, all documents pertaining to this Request for Proposals shall be kept confidential until the proposal evaluation is complete and a recommendation submitted to City Council for review. No information about any submission of proposals shall be released until the process is complete, except to the members of the Evaluation Committee and other appropriate City staff. All information provided shall be considered by the Evaluation Committee in making a recommendation to enter into an agreement with the selected consultant.

4.5 Any inquiries, suggestions or requests concerning interpretation, clarification or additional information pertaining to the RFP shall be made **in writing and be in the hands of the Assistant Purchasing Agent by the close of the business day on December 4, 2015.** Questions can be submitted by letter, fax (865-215-2277), or emailed to jmcclelland@knoxvilletn.gov. The City of Knoxville is not responsible for oral interpretations given by any City employee, representative, or others. The issuance of written addenda is the only official method whereby interpretation, clarification, or additional information can be given. If any addenda are issued to this Request for Proposals, the Purchasing Division will post them to the City's website at www.knoxvilletn.gov/purchasing. Submitting organizations are strongly encouraged to view this website often to see if addenda are posted. Failure of any proposer to receive such addendum or interpretation shall not relieve such Proposer from any obligation under his proposal as submitted. All addenda so issued shall become part of the Contract Documents.

4.6 The City of Knoxville reserves the right to (a) accept or reject any and/or all submissions of proposals; (b) to waive irregularities, informalities, and technicalities; and (c) to accept any alternative submission of proposals presented which, in its opinion, would best serve the interests of the City. The City shall be the sole judge of the proposals, and the resulting negotiated agreement that is in its best interest, and its decision shall be final. The City also reserves the right to make such investigation as it deems necessary to determine the ability of any submitting entity to perform the work or service requested. Information the City deems necessary to make this determination shall be provided by the submitting entity. Such information may include, but is not limited to, current financial statements by an independent CPA, verification of availability of equipment and personnel, and past performance records.

4.7 Included in the Contract Documents is an affidavit that the undersigned has not entered into any collusion with any person with respect to this proposal. The proposer is required to submit this affidavit with their proposal submission.

4.8 Regarding the Equal Business Opportunity Program contracting, the appropriate Form I or Form II **must** be submitted with the proposal. Successful proposers who include Form I with their proposals, stating their intent to use MOB or WOB subcontractors for any part of the contract, will be required to submit Form III, Statement of Payments to MOB/WOB Subcontractor(s) & Supplier(s). Contractors will use Form III to report the amount(s) they have paid to MOB and/or WOB subcontractors on June 30th and December 31st of each year during the life of the contract and with the final payment. Failure to submit this reporting data may result in a delay of payments. Final payment may not be released by the City until Form III is

submitted.

4.9 Subsequent to the Evaluation Committee's review and the Mayor's recommendation of a firm(s), Knoxville City Council approval may be required before the final contract may be executed.

4.10 All expenses for making a submission of proposal shall be borne by the submitting entity.

4.11 Any submission of proposals may be withdrawn up until the date and time for opening of the submissions. **Any submission not so withdrawn shall, upon opening, constitute an irrevocable offer for a period of 120 days to the City of Knoxville for the services set forth in the Request for Proposals until one or more of the submissions have been duly accepted by the City.**

4.12 Prior to submitting their proposals, proposers are to be registered with the Purchasing Division by setting up a Vendor Self-Service Account. Instructions for registering on-line are available at www.knoxvilletn.gov/purchasing. **Proposals from un-registered proposers may be rejected.**

4.13 **NO CONTACT POLICY:** After the posting of this solicitation to the Purchasing Division's website, any contact initiated by any proposer with any City of Knoxville representative concerning this proposal is strictly prohibited, unless such contact is made with the Purchasing Division representative listed herein or with said representative's authorization. Any unauthorized contact may cause the disqualification of the proposer from this procurement transaction.

4.14 **INCLEMENT WEATHER:** During periods of inclement weather, the Purchasing Division will enact the following procedures with regard to solicitations and weather delays:

- If City offices are closed due to inclement weather on the date that bids/proposals/qualifications/letters of interest are due into the Purchasing Office, all solicitations due that same day will be moved to the next operational business day.
- The City of Knoxville shall not be liable for any commercial carrier's decision regarding deliveries during inclement weather.

V. Scope of Work

5.1 Overview. In an effort to continue the convenient method of online tax payment for the citizens of Knoxville, the City is seeking a turnkey solution with seamless integration with the existing website. The payment web site must be easy to understand with minimal data entry. All transactions must be secure and confidential.

Vendors are expected to use the requirements below as a guideline to the expectations the City has for the service. The response to this Request for Proposals must include a brief statement indicating how the proposed system meets or exceeds each of these requirements and also if the proposed solution deviates from the requirements as specified in Section VII.

5.2. Functional Requirements.

- Use the existing city web interface to accept payment. Include a detailed description of how the user interface would look and operate with the existing web site.
- Detail web browsers or version levels that are not supported.
- Accept payment with Visa, MasterCard, Discovery, and American Express credit cards and debit cards online and at the city tax collection office using point-of-sale devices
- Accept check payment with banking information (routing and account numbers)
- Clearly display the service charge amount and the total amount paid by the public prior to accepting payment
- Generate a receipt that may be printed and/or generate an email receipt
- Redirect all sensitive information (such as credit card numbers and account numbers) to the vendor's secure website. The City does not want to store or have access to this information.
- Ensure no cookies or pop-ups are displayed to the citizen
- Ensure the citizen's information is kept confidential and not used for marketing purposes
- Deposit payments daily into a city bank account
- Comply with applicable federal and state laws inclusive of the Electronic Funds Transfer Act (15 USC 41, Section 1693)
- Provide a daily report of transactions
- Provide a daily electronic file of payment transactions to be imported into the city property tax database. At a minimum, the file should contain the payer name and address, telephone number, property id number, and the amount paid.
- Provide a daily electronic file of all returned electronic checks and credit card reversals
- Obtain City approval before taking action on returns, reversals, etc.
- Ensure payment is accepted 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year
- Provide immediate telephone customer support for any questions or problems for either the City or citizens

5.3. Hardware and System Requirements. The vendor must include a detailed response specifying any hardware, system level software, and application software necessary to perform online and point-of-sale tax collection.

The proposal must include the recommended minimum memory, disk storage, operating system and computing power required for each city or public workstation.

5.4 Installation & Implementation. As per Section VII, a detailed implementation plan, proposed payment screen, and electronic file layout is required in the vendor's proposal. The vendor must clearly delineate customer responsibilities, working environment, and schedule.

To be able to have a successful implementation, and having learned from other cities' experiences, the City wants to continue to promote the solution to citizens as a secure and effective way to make payments. The vendor's experience and recommendations regarding marketing this solution should be noted in the proposal.

Vendor must schedule all work through Information Systems and be willing to perform work during off-hours as required. Normal City working hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

5.5 Training. Proposals must include training of City personnel on transaction, reporting, and maintenance procedures. A detailed outline of the training must be provided with the proposal.

5.6 Maintenance. The vendor must clearly identify the maintenance hours and process proposed. The vendor must provide a toll-free customer service number for citizens and the City to report issues.

VI. Contract Requirements

Submitting entities, if selected, must be willing to sign a contract with the City which will include certain provisions, among which are the following:

6.1 Contract Documents. The contract shall consist of (1) the RFP; (2) the proposal submitted by the contractor to this RFP; and (3) the contract. In the event of a discrepancy between the contract, the RFP and the submitted proposal, the contract will prevail.

6.2 Administration. The contract will be administered by the City of Knoxville Department of Information Systems.

6.3 Invoices. Invoices for services will be submitted to the City in accordance with the contract terms.

6.4 Independent Contractor. The relationship of contractor to the City will be that of independent contractor. The contractor will be solely and entirely responsible for its acts and for the acts of its agents, employees, servants and subcontractors done during the performance of the contract. All services performed by the contractor shall be provided in an independent contractor capacity and not in the capacity of officers, agents, or employees of the City.

6.5 Assignment. The contractor shall not assign or transfer any interest in this contract without prior written consent of the City of Knoxville.

6.6 Indemnification and Hold Harmless. The successful proposer will be required to sign a contract with the City which contains the following indemnification clause. This indemnification clause will not be altered in any way. Failure to agree with this indemnification clause in the contract may result in the City moving to the next responsible responsive proposer.

Contractor shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City, its officers, employees and agents from any and all liabilities which may accrue against the City, its officers, employees and agents or any third party for any and all lawsuits, claims, demands, losses or damages alleged to have arisen from an act or omission of Contractor in performance of this Agreement or from Contractor's failure to perform this Agreement using ordinary care and skill, except where such injury, damage, or loss was caused by the sole negligence of the City, its agents or employees.

Contractor shall save, indemnify and hold the City harmless from the cost of the defense of any claim, demand, suit or cause of action made or brought against the City alleging liability referenced above, including, but not limited to, costs, fees, attorney fees, and other expenses of

any kind whatsoever arising in connection with the defense of the City; and Contractor shall assume and take over the defense of the City in any such claim, demand, suit, or cause of action upon written notice and demand for same by the City. Contractor will have the right to defend the City with counsel of its choice that is satisfactory to the City, and the City will provide reasonable cooperation in the defense as Contractor may request. Contractor will not consent to the entry of any judgment or enter into any settlement with respect to an indemnified claim without the prior written consent of the City, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed. The City shall have the right to participate in the defense against the indemnified claims with counsel of its choice at its own expense.

Contractor shall save, indemnify and hold City harmless and pay judgments that shall be rendered in any such actions, suits, claims or demands against City alleging liability referenced above.

The indemnification and hold harmless provisions of this Agreement shall survive termination of the Agreement.

6.7 Termination. The City may terminate this Agreement at any time, with or without cause, by written notice of termination to the Contractor.

If the City terminates this Agreement, and such termination is not a result of a default by the Contractor, the Contractor shall be entitled to receive as its sole and exclusive remedy the following amounts from the City, and the City shall have no further or other obligations to the Contractor: the amount due to the Contractor for work executed through the date of termination, not including any future fees, profits, or other compensation or payments which the Contractor would have been entitled to receive if this Agreement had not been terminated.

The City may, by written notice of default to the Contractor, terminate the whole or any part of this Agreement if the Contractor fails to perform any provisions of this Agreement and does not cure such failure within a period of ten (10) days (or such longer period as the Purchasing Agent may authorize in writing) after receipt of said notice from the Purchasing Agent specifying such failure. If this Agreement is terminated in whole or in part for default, the City may procure, upon such terms and in such manner as the Purchasing Agent may deem appropriate, supplies or services similar to those terminated.

6.8 Insurance. When applicable and prior to the commencement of the contract, contractor must, at its sole expense, obtain and maintain in full force and effect for the duration of the Agreement and any extension hereof at least the following types and amounts of insurance for claims which may arise from or in connection with this Agreement. Contractor shall furnish the City of Knoxville with properly executed certificates of insurance which shall clearly evidence all insurance required by the City. All insurance must be underwritten by insurers with an A.M. Best rating of A-VIII or better. Such insurance shall be at a minimum the following:

- A. **Commercial General Liability Insurance;** occurrence version commercial general liability insurance, and if necessary umbrella liability insurance, with a limit of not less than two million dollars each occurrence for bodily injury, personal injury, property damage, and products and completed operations. If such insurance contains a general aggregate limit, it shall apply separately to the

work/location in this Agreement or be no less than \$3,000,000.

Such insurance shall:

(a.) Contain or be endorsed to contain a provision that includes the City, its officials, officers, employees, and volunteers as additional insureds with respect to liability arising out of work or operations performed by or on behalf of the Contractor including materials, parts, or equipment furnished in connection with such work or operations. The coverage shall contain no special limitations on the scope of its protection afforded to the above-listed insureds. Proof of additional insured status up to and including copies of endorsements and/or policy wording will be required.

(b.) For any claims related to this project, Contractor's insurance coverage shall be primary insurance as respects the City, its officers, officials, officers, employees, and volunteers. Any insurance or self-insurance programs covering the City, its officials, officers, employees, and volunteers shall be excess of Contractor's insurance and shall not contribute with it.

(c.) At the sole discretion of the City, dedicated limits of liability for this specific project may be required.

B. **Automobile Liability Insurance;** including vehicles owned, hired, and non-owned, with a combined single limit of not less than \$1,000,000 each accident. Such insurance shall include coverage for loading and unloading hazards. Insurance shall contain or be endorsed to contain a provision that includes the City, its officials, officers, employees, and volunteers as additional insureds with respect to liability arising out of automobiles owned, leased, hired, or borrowed by or on behalf of Contractor.

C. **Workers' Compensation Insurance.** Contractor shall maintain workers' compensation insurance with statutory limits as required by the State of Tennessee or other applicable laws and employers' liability insurance with limits of not less than \$500,000. Contractor shall require each of its subcontractors to provide Workers' Compensation for all of the latter's employees to be engaged in such work unless such employees are covered by Contractor's workers' compensation insurance coverage. Such insurance shall include a waiver of subrogation in favor of the City. Proof of waiver of subrogation up to and including copies of endorsements and/or policy wording will be required.

D. **Other Insurance Requirements.** Contractor shall:

- Prior to commencement of services, furnish the City with original certificates and amendatory endorsements effecting coverage required by this section and provide that such insurance shall not be cancelled, allowed to expire, or be materially reduced in coverage except on 30 days' prior written notice to the City Attorney of Knoxville; P.O. Box 1631; Knoxville, Tennessee 37901. Proof of policy provisions regarding notice of cancellation will be required.

- Upon the City's request, provide certified copies of endorsements and policies if requested by the City in lieu of or in addition to certificates of insurance. Copies of policies will only be requested when contracts are deemed to be extremely or uniquely hazardous, include a dollar amount that is significant to the overall budget of the City or a City Department, or the coverage(s) may not follow standard insurance forms. A policy will only be requested after the City's Risk Manager has reviewed the contract and proof of coverage has been provided. Should the certificate of insurance refer to specific coverage wording or endorsements(s), proof of such policy wording or endorsement(s) will be required.
- Replace certificates, policies, and endorsements for any such insurance expiring prior to completion of services.
- Maintain such insurance from the time services commence until services are completed. Failure to maintain or renew coverage or to provide evidence of renewal may be treated by the City as a material breach of contract.
- If Contractor cannot procure insurance through an insurer having an A.M. Best rating of A-VIII, Contractor may, in the alternative, place such insurance with insurer licensed to do business in Tennessee and having A.M. Best Company ratings of no less than A. Modification of this standard may be considered upon appeal to the City Law Director.
- Require all subcontractors to maintain during the term of the Agreement Commercial General Liability insurance, Business Automobile Liability insurance, and Workers' Compensation/Employer's Liability insurance (unless subcontractor's employees are covered by Contractor's insurance) in the same manner as specified for Contractor. Contractor shall furnish subcontractors' certificates of insurance to the City without expense immediately upon request.
- Any deductibles and/or self-insured retentions greater than \$50,000 must be disclosed to and approved by the City of Knoxville prior to the commencement of services. Use of large deductibles and/or self-insured retentions may require proof of financial ability as determined by the City.
- The insurer shall agree to waive all rights of subrogation against the City, its officers, officials, and employees for losses arising from work performed by Contractor for the City. Proof of waiver of subrogation up to and including copies of endorsements and/or policy wording will be required.
- All general liability policies must be written on an occurrence basis, unless the Risk Manager determines that a claims made basis is reasonable in the specific circumstance. Use of policies written on a claims made basis must be approved by the City. Risk Manager and retroactive dates and/or continuation dates must be provided to the City prior to commencement of any work performed. Professional Liability and Environmental Liability (Pollution Coverage) are most commonly written on a claims made basis and are generally acceptable in that form.

6.9 Ethical Standards. Attention of all firms is directed to the following provisions contained in the Code of the City of Knoxville: Chapter 24, Article II, Section 24-33 entitled “Debts owed by persons receiving payments other than Salary;” Chapter 2, Article VIII, Division 11. the Contractor hereby takes notice of and affirms that it is not in violation of, or has not participated, and will not participate, in the violation of any of the following ethical standards prescribed by the Knoxville City Code:

A. Section 2-1048. Conflict of Interest.

It shall be unlawful for any employee of the city to participate, directly or indirectly, through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or purchase standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or otherwise, in any proceeding or application, request for ruling or other determination, claim or controversy or other matter pertaining to any contract or subcontract and any solicitation or proposal therefore, where to the employee’s knowledge there is a financial interest possessed by:

- (1) the employee or the employee’s immediate family;
- (2) A business other than a public agency in which the employee or member of the employee’s immediate family serves as an officer, director, trustee, partner or employee; or
- (3) Any person or business with whom the employee or a member of the employee’s immediate family is negotiating or has an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

B. Section 2-1049. Receipt of Benefits from City Contracts by Council Members, Employees and Officers of the City.

It shall be unlawful for any member of council, member of the board of education, officer or employee of the city to have or hold any interest in the profits or emoluments of any contract, job, work or service, either by himself or by another, directly or indirectly. Any such contract for a job, work or service for the city in which any member of council, member of the board of education, officer or employee has or holds any such interest is void.

C. Section 2-1050. Gratuities and Kickbacks Prohibited.

It is unlawful for any person to offer, give or agree to give to any person, while a city employee, or for any person, while a city employee, to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, anything of a pecuniary value for or because of:

- (1) An official action taken, or to be taken, or which could be taken;
- (2) A legal duty performed, or to be performed, or which could be performed; or
- (3) A legal duty violated, or to be violated, or which could be violated by such person while a city employee.

Anything of nominal value shall be presumed not to constitute a gratuity under this section.

Kickbacks. It is unlawful for any payment, gratuity, or benefit to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order.

D. Section 2-1051. Covenant Relating to Contingent Fees.

- (a) Representation of Contractor. Every person, before being awarded a contract in

excess of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) with the city, shall represent that no other person has been retained to solicit or secure the contract with the city upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial, selling agencies maintained by the person so representing for the purpose of securing business.

(b) Intentional Violation Unlawful. The intentional violation of the representation specified in subsection (a) of this section is unlawful.

E. Section 2-1052. Restrictions on Employment of Present and Former City Employees. Contemporaneous employment prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any city employee to become or be, while such employee, an employee of any party contracting with the particular department or agency in which the person is employed.

For violations of the ethical standards outlined in the Knoxville City Code, the City has the following remedies:

- (1) Oral or written warnings or reprimands;
- (2) Cancellation of transactions; and
- (3) Suspension or debarment from being a Contractor or subcontractor under city or city-funded contracts.

The value of anything transferred in violation of these ethical standards shall be recoverable by the City from such person. All procedures under this section shall be in accord with due process requirements, included but not limited to a right to notice and hearing prior to imposition of any cancellation, suspension or debarment from being a Contractor or subcontractor under a city contract.

6.10 Firms must comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246 and 11375 which prohibit discrimination in employment regarding race, color, religion, sex or national origin. Firms must also comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Copeland Anti-Kick Back Act, the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, Section 402 of the Vietnam Veterans Adjustment Act of 1974, Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, all of which are herein incorporated by reference.

6.11 Firms shall give consideration to the inclusion of minority firms or individuals in this project, and shall advise the city in this proposal of their efforts to do so.

6.12 Firms shall give consideration to the use of environmentally sustainable best practices, and shall advise the city in this submittal of qualifications of their efforts to do so.

6.13 Federal, State, and Local Requirements. Each submitting entity is responsible for full compliance with all laws, rules and regulations which may be applicable.

6.14 Licenses. Before a contract is signed by the City, the submitting entity, if selected, **must** provide the City Purchasing Division with a copy of its valid business license **or** with an affidavit explaining why it is exempt from the business licensure requirements of the city or county in which it is headquartered. If a contract is signed, the contractor's business license shall

be kept current throughout the duration of the contract, and the contractor shall inform the City of changes in its business name or location. The contractor must be a licensed professional as required by the state of Tennessee, see T.C.A. Sections 62-2-101 et. seq., for any services in this contract requiring such licensure.

6.15 Funding. The City's performance and obligation to pay under this contract is subject to funding contingent upon an annual appropriation.

6.16 Governing Law and Venue. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the substantive laws of the State of Tennessee and its conflict of laws provisions. Venue for any action arising between the City and the Contractor from the Agreement shall lie in Knox County, Tennessee.

6.17 Subcontracts to the Agreement. Contractor shall not enter into a subcontract for any of the services performed under this Agreement without obtaining the prior written approval of the City.

6.18 Amendments. This Agreement may be modified only by a written amendment or addendum that has been executed and approved by the appropriate officials shown on the signature page of the Agreement.

6.19 Captions. The captions appearing in the Agreement are for convenience only and are not a part of the Agreement; they do not in any way limit or amplify the provisions of the Agreement.

6.20 Severability. If any provision of the Agreement is determined to be unenforceable or invalid, such determination shall not affect the validity of the other provisions contained in the Agreement. Failure to enforce any provision of the Agreement does not affect the rights of the parties to enforce such provision in another circumstance, nor does it affect the rights of the parties to enforce any other provision of this Agreement at any time.

6.21 No Benefit for Third Parties. The services to be performed by the Contractor pursuant to the Agreement with the City are intended solely for the benefit of the City, and no benefit is conferred hereby, nor is any contractual relationship established herewith, upon or with any person or entity not a party to the Agreement. No such person or entity shall be entitled to rely on the Contractor's performance of its services hereunder, and no right to assert a claim against the City or the Contractor, its officers, employees, agents, or contractors shall accrue to the Contractor or to any subcontractors, independently retained professional consultant, supplier, fabricator, manufacturer, lender, tenant, insurer, surety, or any other third party as a result of this Agreement or the performance or non-performance of the Contractor's services hereunder.

6.22 Non-Reliance of Parties. Parties explicitly agree that they have not relied upon any earlier or outside representations other than what has been included in the Agreement. Furthermore, neither party has been induced to enter into this Agreement by anything other than the specific written terms set forth herein.

6.23 Force Majeure. Neither party shall be liable to the other for any delay or failure to perform any of the services or obligations set forth in this Agreement due to causes beyond its

reasonable control, and performance times shall be considered extended for a period of time equivalent to the time lost because of such delay plus a reasonable period of time to allow the parties to recommence performance of their respective obligations hereunder. Should a circumstance of force majeure last more than ninety (90) days, either party may by written notice to the other terminate this Agreement. The term "force majeure" as used herein shall mean the following: acts of God; strikes, lockouts or other industrial disturbances; acts of public enemies; orders or restraints of any kind of the government of the United States or of the State or any of their departments, agencies or officials, or any civil or military authority; insurrections, riots, landslides, earthquakes, fires, storms, tornadoes, droughts, floods, explosions, breakage or accident to machinery, transmission pipes or canals; or any other cause or event not reasonably within the control of either party.

6.24 EEO/AA. The City of Knoxville is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Section 504/ADA/ADEA Employer.

VII. Instructions to Submitting Entities

All submissions of proposals shall comply with the following instructions. These instructions ensure that (1) submissions contain the information and documents required by the City RFP and (2) the submissions have a degree of uniformity to facilitate evaluation.

7.1 General

Submission forms and RFP documentation may be obtained on or after November 20, 2015, at no charge from:

City of Knoxville Purchasing Division
City/County Building
400 Main Street, Room 667
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (Eastern Time), Monday through Friday or by calling 865/215-2070. Forms and RFP information are also available on the City web site at www.knoxvilletn.gov/purchasing where it can be read or printed using Adobe Acrobat Reader software.

7.2 Submission Information

Proposals shall include seven (7) hard copies (one original and six duplicates—**mark the original as such**) and one electronic copy of the proposal (either CD or flash/thumb drive—**mark the storage device with the company name**); the electronic version shall be an exact duplicate of the original, and the electronic version will be the official document exhibited in the contract.

IMPORTANT NOTE: A minimum of one of the submitted proposals must bear an original signature, signed in ink (duplicated signatures substituted for original ink signatures may result in rejection of the proposals). This document is the official, original

submission; the required copies may have copied signatures. The signature must be entered above the typed or printed name and title of the signer. All proposals must be signed by an officer of the company authorized to bind the firm to a contract.

Proposals will be received until 11:00 a.m. (Eastern Time) on December 11, 2015. Each proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to:

City of Knoxville Purchasing Division
City/County Building
400 Main Street, Room 667
Knoxville, TN 37902

IMPORTANT NOTE: Each mailing envelope or carton containing a proposal or multiple copies of the proposal must be sealed and plainly marked on the outside “Online Tax Collection.” Proposers are reminded that the Purchasing Division receives many bids and proposals for any number of solicitations; unlabeled submissions are extremely difficult to match to their appropriate solicitations and therefore may be rejected.

Any proposals received after the time and date on the cover sheet will not be considered. It shall be the sole responsibility of the submitting entity to have the proposal delivered to the City of Knoxville Purchasing Division on or before that date.

Late proposals will not be considered. Proposals that arrive late due to the fault of United States Postal Service, United Parcel Service, DHL, FEDEX, any delivery/courier service, or any other carrier of any sort are still considered late and shall not be accepted by the City. Such proposals shall remain unopened and will be returned to the submitting entity upon request.

7.3 Format

The City is committed to reducing waste. Submissions of qualifications must be typed on 8.5 x 11 inch wide white paper, printed on both sides. DO NOT BIND the document; instead, staple or binder clip the submission together and place in a sealed envelope (see Paragraph 7.2). Pages must be consecutively numbered. A table of contents must be included in the proposal immediately after the title page, and each of the following numbered sections must be tabbed.

Proposals shall be structured as follows. Numbered items listed below should have a numbered tab page:

Tab 1. Submission Form

1. Submission Form S-1
2. Non-Collusion Affidavit
3. Form I or Form II (Statement of Intent) found in Title VI – Equal Business Opportunity Program for City of Knoxville

Tab 2. Table of Contents

Tab 3. Vendor’s Qualifications

1. Size of the business (employees, annual revenue, profit/loss statement for last three fiscal years)
2. A reference list including clients who have used the vendor's services
3. A reference list (minimum three including contact names and phone numbers) of a similar system used to collect government taxes and fines
4. Number of years in business providing similar services
5. Number of support personnel in the organization, support locations, and hours

Tab 4. Functional Requirements

Clearly discuss how the vendor is compliant **for each requirement** listed in Section 5.2 of the RFP,

Tab 5. Hardware Requirements

1. Requirements for all hardware and system software (browsers, etc.)
2. Third-party software and required version (such as Excel, web-related software, operating system software, database including version, etc.)

Tab 6 Training

Tab 7 Maintenance

1. Strategies addressing maximum expected downtime for system failures and the procedures the City to follow to obtain resolution.
2. Toll-free customer support number

Tab 8 Statement of Work, Implementation Plan, & Timeline

1. Initial installation setup plans
2. A firm timeline for implementation
3. A project start date commitment
4. A resource availability date commitment
5. Test and training environment setup plans
6. Vendor acceptance test plan
7. Training plan

Tab 9 Costs

1. Offeror must provide a **no cost** solution. Specifically, there will be no costs for setup, maintenance, bank transactions, and telecommunications.
2. Offeror must propose a service fee to be paid by the public.

7.4 Evaluation of Proposals. All qualified submissions received by the deadline will be analyzed by the Evaluation Committee according to the criteria outlined in these specifications. Failure to comply with the provisions of the RFP may cause any proposal to be ineligible for evaluation. Each submittal of proposals will be initially analyzed and judged according to the

evaluation criteria below. The maximum score is 100 points.

The City reserves full discretion to determine the capability of proposing entities. Proposers, if asked, will provide, in a timely manner, any and all information that the City deems necessary to make such a decision. In addition to materials provided in the written responses to this RFP, the Committee may request additional material, information, references, a site visit, or a live test demonstration from the submitting entity or others.

The Evaluation Committee may or may not decide to interview any or all proposing entities at a time and date determined by the City in order to address questions and more fully ascertain how the solution to this project satisfies the evaluation criteria. Firms and/or teams responding to this Request for Proposals shall be available for interviews with the Evaluation Committee. Discussions may be conducted with responsible submitting entities for purposes of clarification to assure full understanding of and conformance to the RFP requirements. Selection shall be based on the firms' qualifications applicable to the scope and nature of the services to be performed per this request for proposals. Determination of firms' qualifications shall be based on their written responses to this Request for Proposals and information presented to the Evaluation Committee during oral interviews, if any.

In addition to materials provided in the written responses to this Request for Proposals, the Committee may request additional material, information, or references from the submitting entity or others.

Provided it is in the best interest of the City of Knoxville, the firm or team determined to be the most responsive to the City of Knoxville, taking into consideration the evaluation factors set forth in this Request for Proposals, will be selected to begin contract negotiations. The firm or team selected will be notified at the earliest practical date and invited to submit more comprehensive information if necessary. If no satisfactory agreement can be reached with the "most responsive firm," the City may elect to negotiate with the next best and most responsive firm or team.

VIII. Evaluation Criteria

An evaluation team, composed of representatives of the City, will evaluate proposals on a variety of quantitative and qualitative criteria. Upon receipt of proposals, the City will review to determine whether the proposal is acceptable or non-acceptable based on the criteria outlined below. The criteria, and the associated weights upon which the evaluation of the proposals will be based, include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Meets Functional and Technical Requirements (30 points)**
 - Product modification and update processes documented
 - Integration with existing equipment and software described
 - Forward and backward product support documented
- **Costs (25 points)**
 - Cost of standard package
 - Additional costs to meet all feasible desired functionality
 - Cost of data conversion if necessary addressed

Maintenance/license fees

Other costs

- **Vendor Services (25 points)**

Training

Implementation support

Operational and maintenance support

- **Product Stability and Maturity (20 points)**

Financial stability of vendor

References and contact information verification provided

Product maturity

Vendor maturity

Submission Forms

CITY OF KNOXVILLE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Online Tax Collection Services

**Proposals to be Received by 11:00:00 a.m., Eastern Time; December 11, 2015;
in Room 667-674, City/County Building; Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.**

IMPORTANT: Proposers shall include seven (7) hard copies (one original and 6 duplicates), as well as one electronic (.pdf format) copy of their submission; the electronic version shall be an exact duplicate of the original, and the electronic version will be the official document exhibited in the contract. **IMPORTANT NOTE: A minimum of one of the submitted proposals must bear an original signature, signed in ink (duplicated signatures substituted for original ink signatures may result in rejection of the proposals). This document is the official, original submission; the required copies may have copied signatures.**

Please complete the following:

Legal Name of Proposer: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

Contact Person: _____

Email Address: _____

Signature: _____

Name and Title of Signer _____

Note: Failure to use these response sheets may disqualify your submission.

NON-COLLUSION AFFIDAVIT

State of _____

County of _____

_____, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that:

- (1) He/She is the _____ of _____, the firm that has submitted the attached Proposal;
- (2) He/She is fully informed respecting the preparation and contents of the attached Proposal and of all pertinent circumstances respecting such Proposal;
- (3) Such Proposal is genuine and is not a collusive or sham Proposal;
- (4) Neither the said firm nor any of its officers, partners, owners, agents, representatives, employees or parties in interest, including this affiant, has in any way colluded, conspired, connived or agreed, directly or indirectly, with any other vendor, firm or person to submit collusive or sham proposal in connection with the contract or agreement for which the attached Proposal has been submitted or to refrain from making a proposal in connection with such contract or agreement, or collusion or communication or conference with any other firm, or, to fix any overhead, profit, or cost element of the proposal price or the proposal price of any other firm, or to secure through any collusion, conspiracy, connivance, or unlawful agreement any advantage against the City of Knoxville or any person interested in the proposed contract or agreement; and
- (5) The proposal of service outlined in the Proposal is fair and proper and is not tainted by collusion, conspiracy, connivance, or unlawful agreement on the part of the firm or any of its agents, representatives, owners, employees, or parties including this affiant.

(Signed): _____

Title: _____

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 20__.

NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission expires _____

Equal Business Opportunity Program

Contracting Component

SECTION I

EQUAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM "GOOD FAITH EFFORT PLAN"

The City of Knoxville strongly encourages contractors to employ minority owned businesses and women owned businesses as subcontractors whenever feasible. This is viewed favorably by the City of Knoxville. In fact, the City's goal for minority and women owned business participation is 10 percent of the contract amount.

Prime contractors will consider all competitive sub-bids and quotations received from minority owned businesses (MOB) and women owned businesses (WOB). When a subcontract is not awarded to the MOB/WOB submitting the lowest bid, the prime contractor must document the reason(s) the award was not made in writing. If the Contractor terminates an agreement and/or subcontract with a MOB/WOB, then the contractor is required to strongly consider selection of another MOB or WOB as a replacement.

GOOD FAITH EFFORTS

1. Soliciting through all reasonable and available means.
 - a. Advertising
 - b. Written notices to all certified MOB's and WOB's who have the capability to perform the work or provide the service.
 - c. Solicitation of interest must be within sufficient time to allow MOB's and WOB's to respond to the solicitation.
 - d. Faxes, direct mailings, and telephone requests.
2. Providing interested MOB's and WOB's with adequate information about plans, specifications, and requirements of the contract in a timely manner to assist them in responding to a solicitation.
3. Negotiating in good faith with interested MOB's and WOB's.
 - a. It is the bidder's/proposer's responsibility to make opportunities available to MOB's and WOB's subcontractors and suppliers and to select opportunities consistent with the available

MOB/WOB business subcontractors and suppliers. Evidence of such negotiations includes the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of MOB's and WOB's considered.

- (1) A description of the specifications for the work selection for subcontracting
- (2) Evidence why agreements could not be reached for MOB's and WOB's to perform the work.

4. Effectively using the services of available minority, women contractor groups, local minority and women business assistance offices, small business groups, and other organizations on a case-by-case basis to provide assistance in the recruitment and placement of minority/women business.

SECTION II

MOB/WOB SUBMITTAL TIME FRAME

The Contractor will submit the following forms with the **bid/proposal**:

1. "Statement of Intent for MOB/WOB Utilization" (Form I Attached)

This form will be submitted by the bidder/proposer if he/she plans to subcontract any portion(s) of the work with a MOB and/or a WOB. This form illustrates the areas the Contractor has identified as potential MOB and/or WOB subcontract opportunities and the **dollar value** associated with these opportunities. The purpose of "Form I" is to measure the Contractor's **"Good Faith Efforts."** It does not commit the prime to subcontracting these areas only to MOB and WOB firms or release the prime from negotiating with MOB/WOB firms for subcontract opportunities.

OR

2. "Statement of Intent of Performing Work Without Subcontracting" (Form II Attached)

This form will be submitted if the **bidder/proposer** does not plan to subcontract any portion(s) of the work and if there are not any sufficient material purchases in which MOB/WOB firms can be utilized. The **bidder/proposer** must certify that this has been a typical practice on projects of similar scope and dollar value. By submittal of Form II, the Contractor certifies that:

- (1) He/she does not typically subcontract on projects of similar scope and dollar value.
- (2) He/she will not enter into any subcontract for duration of the project, and if he/she does decide to subcontract any portion of the work, he/she will: notify the City immediately of the decision to subcontract and adhere to the provision of **"Good Faith Efforts"** in filling that subcontract opportunity.

The Purchasing Division may request the apparent low bidder/proposer to provide additional

information to clarify the bidder's/proposer's responsiveness and intent in this regard.

These documents will be received by the Purchasing Division upon submission of a proposal/bid. Additionally, prime contractors who submit Form I stating their intent to use MOB or WOB subcontractors for any part of the contract are required to report the amount(s) they have paid to these subcontractors on June 30th and December 31st of each year. Failure to submit this reporting data may result in a delay of payments. At the time of the final request for payment, the prime shall submit a Statement of Final Payments to MOB and WOB Subcontractors and Suppliers (Form III attached). Final payment will not be released by the City until Form III is submitted.

SECTION III

DEFINITIONS

Minority: A person who is a citizen or lawful admitted permanent resident of the United States and who is a member of one (1) of the following groups:

- a. Black American, which includes persons having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa;
- b. A Hispanic American, which includes persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race;
- c. Native American, which includes persons who are American Indians or Alaska Native;
- d. An Asian-Indian American, which includes persons whose origins are from Indian, Pakistan or Bangladesh.
- e. An Asian Pacific Islander, which includes persons whose origins are from Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, the Philippines, Samoa, Guam, the U. S. Trust Territories of the Pacific and Northern Marinas.

Minority Owned Business (MOB), Women Owned Business (WOB): A business which is at least (51%) owned and controlled by minority group members or European American female(s). A MOB/WOB is bonafide only if the minority group interests are real and continuing and not created solely to meet the MOB/WOB requirement. In addition, the MOB/WOB must perform satisfactory work or services to provide supplies under the contract and not act as a mere conduit. In short, the contractual relationship must be bonafide. Certification of minority owned businesses and women owned businesses is provided by City Community Relations Office.

Owned and Controlled: A business which is (1) a sole proprietorship legitimately owned by an individual who is a minority or European American female; (2) a partnership or joint venture controlled by minorities or European American females, and in which at least (51%) of the beneficial ownership interests legitimately are held by minorities or European American females; or (3) a corporation or other entity controlled by minorities or European American females, and in which at least 51% of the voting interests and 51% of the beneficial ownership interests are legitimately held by minorities or European American females. In addition, these persons must control the management and operation of the business on a day-to-day basis.

Subcontractor: Any named person, firm, partnership, or corporation which supplies any work, labor, services, supplies, equipment, materials, or any combination of the foregoing contract with the contractor on a public contract.

FORM I

STATEMENT OF INTENT OF MOB/WOB UTILIZATION (TO BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID/PROPOSAL)

We, _____, do certify that on the

_____ (Project Name)

(_____)

(Dollar Amount of Bid)

MOB/WOB's will be employed as subcontractor(s), vendor(s), supplier(s), or professional service(s). The estimated **dollar value** of the amount that we plan to pay the MOB or WOB subcontractor(s), vendor(s), supplier(s), or professional service(s) is \$_____.

Description of Work	MOB/WOB Utilization		Name of MOB/WOB
	MOB Amount	WOB Amount	

The undersigned understands that they are to report the annual amount disbursed to these MOB(s) /WOB(s) on June 30th of each year. Moreover, the undersigned understands that he/she is required to report the total amount disbursed to MOB(s)/WOB(s) for this project at the completion of the project and that payments may be withheld until these reporting requirements are met.

DATE: _____ COMPANY NAME: _____

SUBMITTED BY: _____

(Authorized Representative)

TITLE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE: _____

TELEPHONE NO: _____

FORM II

STATEMENT OF INTENT TO PERFORM WORK WITHOUT SUBCONTRACTING (TO BE SUBMITTED WITH BID/PROPOSAL)

We, _____, hereby certify that it is our
(Bidder/Proposer)

intent to perform 100 % of the work required for the _____

_____ contract.
(Name of Project)

In making this certification, the **Bidder/Proposer** states that:

1. It is a normal business practice of the bidder/proposer to perform all elements of this type contract with its own work forces without the use of subcontracts.

AND

2. If it is necessary to subcontract some portion of the work at a later date, the **bidder/proposer** will comply with all requirements of the "**Good Faith Efforts**" in providing equal opportunity to MOB/WOB Firms to subcontract the work.

The undersigned hereby certifies that he/she has read the terms and agrees to the terms of this statement.

Signature and title of authorized official of the company and the date must be properly executed on this document and a list of previous projects of similar scope and dollar value as stated in Section II attached or the bid may be deemed non-responsive.

DATE: _____ COMPANY NAME: _____

SUBMITTED BY: _____
(Authorized Representative)

TITLE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE: _____

TELEPHONE NO: _____

FORM III

**STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS TO MOB/WOB SUBCONTRACTOR(S) & SUPPLIER(S)
(TO BE SUBMITTED ON JUNE 30 AND DECEMBER 31 OF EACH YEAR FOR THE
LIFE OF THE CONTRACT AND TO BE WITH FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST)**

Project:

Contract#: _____

Contractor's

Name: _____

Cert. #	MOB	WOB	Name of Firm / Address & Phone#	Total Amount Paid	Contact Person

I hereby certify that this statement is true and that above payments have been made.

Contractor: _____

Address: _____

By: _____

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____ 20____

Notary

Public: _____

My Commission Expires: _____